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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the claims, which consists of the amendments to Claims 1, 8 and 99-110, is set forth below:

1 (currently amended): An inhibitor of a protein kinase $C\alpha$ (PKC α), the inhibitor comprising

A-Ala-Arg-Arg-X-B-Hyd-C-D- (SEQ ID NO:1), where A =AcHN-,

$$CI$$
 O
 N
 O
 CH_3
 O
 CH_3

X=any amino acid or amino acid mimetic; B=Ala or a diaminopropionic acid (Dap) derivative having the formula

Hyd=Phe, Leu or Ile; C=Arg or Lys; and D=Ala or a Dap derivative having the formula

wherein any of the amino acids can alternatively be an analogous amino acid mimetic.

2-6 (canceled)

7 (original): The inhibitor of claim 1, wherein the PKC α is a human PKC α .

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9-93 (canceled)

94 (previously presented): The inhibitor of claim 1, having an IC_{50} <50 μ M for the PKC α .

95 (previously presented): The inhibitor of claim 1, having an IC_{50} <10 μ M for the PKC α .

96 (previously presented): The inhibitor of claim 1, having an IC_{50} <1 μ M for the PKC α .

97 (previously presented): The inhibitor of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor has an IC_{50} for the PKC α <0.1 that of any other PKC isoform.

98 (previously presented): The inhibitor of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor has an IC_{50} for the PKC α <0.01 that of any other PKC isoform.

99 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

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101 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

102 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, consisting of

103 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

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105 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

106 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, consisting of

107 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

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109 (currently amended): The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising